

## New York Tribune.

First to Last the Truth: News, Editorials, Advertisements.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1914.

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation, 400 N. York, N. Y. (Incorporated in New York.)

Subscription Rates: By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York.  
 Single Copies, 5 Cents.  
 Daily and Sunday, 1 month, \$1.00; 3 months, \$2.50; 6 months, \$4.50; 1 year, \$8.00.  
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Foreign Rates: By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York.  
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## Friendly Settlement of the Contraband Dispute.

Coming out of what was conceived to be a clear sky, the contraband protest addressed to Great Britain cannot fail to arouse surprise and some hard feeling on both sides of the water. The cables from London report considerable irritation expressed in unofficial opinion. There are signs that anti-British Americans here are ready to welcome the opportunity for renewing their favorite international quarrel. It seems important, therefore, to point out the necessity of clear thinking on this much abused subject—clear thinking and calm speech which cannot be misunderstood by any one.

For our own point of view it cannot be made too clear that the whole theory of contraband is perfectly calculated to stir up endless dispute. It has been the subject of more international bickering than can be measured. The moment we concede—as we must concede under the unquestioned rules of international law—the right of Great Britain to halt our merchant ships on the high seas, board them and search them for contraband, we are obviously providing material for wrangling and injustice. This right of search is the price which international law makes neutral commerce pay for its right to continue in the main unhampered. When we add to this inherently obnoxious right of search the fact that definitions of contraband are hopelessly vague and the whole doctrine in a state of flux, it is plain that here is no sure ground on which to pick a hasty quarrel with any one. Rather is it a case for full discussion, frank demands and rational settlement through the compromises which every disputed situation at law must be resolved.

So far as now appears, the administration is approaching the question in exactly this spirit. If anything, it would seem that the State Department has been over-patient in letting complaints accumulate without a settlement of general principles. At any rate, a spirit of entire friendliness pervades the note of protest. This the London papers fully appreciate, and it is certain that the British government will reply in kind.

For the British point of view it must be added that our sincere desire to avoid anything approaching ill feeling does not mean that we are willing to retreat from our unquestioned rights as a neutral power. The law of contraband contains a large borderland of doubt. But it leaves the broad right of neutrals unimpaired. It is at the most an exception to the general right of a nation not at war to go about its business as usual. That right we shall unquestionably insist upon maintaining, however ready we stand to discuss the mooted terms of the law of contraband in fairness and good will.

## Poor Time for a Clothing Strike.

The value of the protocol existing between the clothing manufacturers and their 70,000 employees in the city was never more clearly demonstrated than during the present "crisis" in the clothing trades. Something over a year ago, it will be remembered, there occurred another "crisis" in the relationship of these unions and employers. The board of arbitration met, heard both sides, recommended certain action and a general strike was averted. With practically the same board of arbitration to hear the present dispute there is good reason to entertain hope of a similarly favorable result.

It would be a thousand pities if a general strike in this most important industry should result at such a time as this. Already the unemployment problem has assumed appalling proportions, and winter has only just begun. With an army of 70,000 added to those already roaming the streets in vain quest of work New York would indeed be imitating the capitals of the Continent. That side in the clothing trades controversy which refuses to abide by a reasonable compromise in the situation will earn the community's grave disfavor.

## Golf and Profanity.

Mr. Taft presents the ancient and honorable game of golf in a new light—as a cure for profanity! His words, at least, are open to such construction. At the outset, he says, the game tempts to profanity. But he continues:

"This, however, is of short duration with a man of any sense, because he finds that the less he resorts to profanity and impatience the better his score."

No man who has ever topped a ball five times in succession can gainsay the truth of this statement. And it is also true that one may spot the experienced golfer by the urbanity with which he encounters the varying fortunes of the game. But before he reaches this state of moral excellence he must invariably have experienced not once but many times the situation in which silence becomes a thousand times more eloquent than all the linguistic explosives ever invented. It is a hard and rigorous training, but afterward one looks back upon it with gratitude.

## More Light in Dark Places.

The announcement by Commissioner Williams of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity that street lights discontinued to save money will be restored is welcome. This will particularly affect sections of Greenwich Village, the "gas house" district and other parts of the East Side, and the Bronx. All are parts of the city poorly enough lighted at best.

It is poor economy to skimp the city's activities in directions such as this. Crime flourishes in the dark. The city is under-policed. Street lights discourage the rogue and aid the honest way-

farer. They are better even than the bluecoat. The more of them the city maintains the better it will be performing its duty to the public.

## The New Tenant of the People's House.

Governor Glynn moves out of the Executive Mansion to-day and Governor Whitman moves in. It is a change which the voters decreed by a stupendous margin, marking their dissatisfaction with the existing order of administration.

Mr. Whitman becomes Governor because as District Attorney he was official, not politician; he was zealous in the public's service, afraid of no man and no influence, unwavering and unswerving in pursuit of crooks. The public expects and has reason to expect great things of him. If his career as Governor follows the pace he set as District Attorney there is little he may not expect in turn from the public.

## Mr. John Skelton Williams Exonerates Himself.

The Controller of the Currency, Mr. John Skelton Williams, devotes a considerable portion of his annual report to explaining what a fine piece of work he did in handling the United States Trust Company over to the Munsey Trust Company. Not only was everything "strictly within the law," the achievement was heroic, saving thousands of depositors and employees.

Both of these assertions may be conceded without touching the criticism which The Tribune made at the time. Nobody wanted the depositors to suffer, and according to all the opinion at the time they need not have suffered; there were plenty of ways of averting disaster without resort to the particular form of personally conducted finance which Mr. Williams selected. What we criticized was the use of the Treasury of the United States, even "strictly within the law," to put over a good thing for the friends of the Controller of the Currency. The eloquence of a dozen annual reports cannot expunge this blot from the records of the Wilson administration.

## A Good Judge and One Not So Good.

Governor Glynn has made an excellent appointment in selecting Mr. Clarence J. Shearn for the Supreme Court bench. Mr. Shearn is a clean and able lawyer and a man of broad experience. His Hearst political alliances have not suited many elements of the community; nevertheless they have left no taint on him. He is, like Justice Seabury, whom he succeeds, modern and progressive in his views.

Not so good an appointment is that of Justice Delehanty, elevated from the City Court. He has served there with credit, but he has by no means distinguished himself. This nomination can be attributed to a desire on the part of the Governor to please Tammany rather than to signal fitness. As usual, Mr. Glynn has tried to be for Tammany and independent of it at one and the same time.

## An American Westminster Abbey.

Mr. Holden, of Cleveland, whose will provides for the establishment of a cemetery in which may be buried "only those illustrious dead who have deserved well of nation or state," derived no warning, apparently, from the history of the Hall of Fame.

There being no recognized aristocracy of the living in this land of ours, it has been and will always be found an exceedingly troublesome task to organize an aristocracy of the dead. Naturally, the trustees of a private cemetery have a right to their estimates of men and measures. But it is highly improbable that their estimates, however worthy, will find general acceptance even in their own community, not to mention the tens of thousands of other communities in which the free born American emphasizes his views with or without the help of expectation. It is much more likely that the late Mr. Holden's arboretum, adjoining the Rockefeller estate, will inspire something of the ridicule and disrespect that have been the Hall of Fame's portion.

In which case it may become difficult to persuade the relatives of the "illustrious dead" to bury them there. The Hall of Fame, in this respect, will always have the bulge on the American Westminster Abbey.

## The Inadequacy of Social Service.

The city authorities and some members of Mayor Mitchell's committee on unemployment are represented as being alarmed lest the I. W. W. begin demonstrations to disclose the inadequacy of the city's social service. They should be alarmed. Lodging house raids and kindred methods of agitation may be used to serve the ends of some "leaders" who choose to exploit their unfortunate fellows. But any person who thinks that is their sole significance and that the unfortunates who make up the body of raiding parties, parades and protest meetings should be clubbed and thrown into jail forthwith is mightily mistaken. The I. W. W. organization, which in a large section of its membership is honest and in purpose is as sincere as any other labor union, exists and has strength as an agency of protest to-day because there is hardship for the "under dog" and there is injustice, and society's efforts to relieve them are so lamentably weak and pitifully slow.

Even the Mayor's committee on unemployment—a well chosen body of representative citizens—is slow moving. It has divided itself into sub-committees and opened offices. But so far as the public knows it has not amassed any fund for immediate relief of the hungry and homeless, nor has it presented any plan for co-ordinating relief work of charitable organizations, churches and other relief committees. Meantime the bread line grows, the demands on the lodging house run up by the hundreds at the first sign of bad weather and the Charity Organization Society and the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor report their resources strained to meet the unprecedented demands on them. No I. W. W. parades or raids are necessary to demonstrate a lamentable unpreparedness to handle the situation. Only the fact that there has been so little really bad weather has spared this city the sight of terrible suffering.

It is high time for something besides theorizing and talk. Money should be collected for immediate relief work. Armories and churches should be equipped for sleeping quarters for the homeless. If I. W. W. demonstrations are necessary to call the attention of smug citizens and prosperous officialdom to sorrow and want, so much the worse for the "better classes."

## The Conning Tower

## CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE ATONED FOR.

I note with anger Flaccus' fulminations  
 Couched in the meter (or rather lack of it), originated by the immortal Gilbert.  
 Not only that, his feeble lucubrations  
 Are given the place of honor at the top of the column. Why, the poor fibbert!

Seems to have the idea that his contributions are actually an adjunct to the column.  
 When as a matter of fact, for the most part, they're pretty poor stuff,  
 And the funny part of it is, you actually encourage the solemn  
 Ass by intimating that he never can send you enough.

Of course, if I had desired to resort to the low method of sending you a card  
 Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,  
 And had exerted half the effort that Flaccus did in  
 dishing out a few rhymes, so that he could get into print without seeming to try very hard,  
 I could have busted into the column myself. Yes, and landed at the top, too. Couldn't I, old dear?

However that may be, I am simply sending you this little effort, which I dashed off in a few days.  
 To remind you that Flaccus isn't the only contrib who has to labor under the necessity of serving unmonies and things for the purpose of earning a living, although I am not one of them;  
 Why, I assure you all the feller does with himself is to think out every once in a while a few new ways

Of getting money out of other people. Why, if I had as much time to send you contributions as that guy has, I'd send you a ton of them!

Please do not get the very wrong impression  
 That I am simply calling the feller names under the guise of criticism, for I'm not;

I simply was carried away by my feelings, which actually, I assure you, the feller gets me so excited to my primordial ancestry I feel like I am making it a retrogression!

No, I simply started in to say that I intended to wish you a Happy New Year, and that maybe I would send you more contributions next year if I had the time, but forgot.

HARON IRELAND.

"Mrs. Cummins and her family are living at the Ansenas," is how "The Herald's" story of the effort business men are making to have Cummins pardoned ends. Bring the petition around; we'll sign it. We can't bear to think of the hardships and privations that financial delinquencies bring upon the families of men whom a relentless, cruel law convicts.

Thanks, dear friends, for the lovely calendars. But we have little difficulty in determining the date. We just go down to the composing-room and look at the date-line for the to-morrow's paper.

What we do need is—or are—blotters. Ever since Mr. Justice Hughes showed, in 1905, that insurance companies didn't have to buy Smyrna rugs, we have had to buy our own blotters. And the Equitable's old 15-year endowment non-participating blotters were better than any we've bought.

## THE COMPLETE LETTER WRITER.

Sir: With humor costing me \$9 a word, and the average wage of women in the Empire State less than \$9 a week, can you blame me if I'm serious?

Motives of economy compel me to refuse to thank the Public Service Commission for the generous six inches on which each girl who has stood all day at her work may ride restfully from Fourteenth Street to the Bronx. The same motives prevent me from expressing my appreciation of the patent medicine advertisements, which may enable me to die within my means.

But I can afford to offer a perfectly serious test to the 20,000 teachers in the New York schools:

QUESTION I. Do you think you are teaching your pupils what they need to know?

QUESTION II. Do your relations with your superiors inspire you to do your best work?

QUESTION III. Have you discussed questions I and II with your superiors?

QUESTION IV. Why not?

HENRIETTA RODMAN.

Miss Rodman never may have heard of Heine Zimmerman, but she reminds us somewhat of that temperamental third baseman, continuing, after having been chased to the clubhouse and fired, to call the umpire out of his name. Which is not to call her the Zimmerman of teachers.

Speaking of English, which Miss Rodman used to be paid for doing, the Columbia Spectator notes that "this monument is a thing very unique of its kind." Somewhat indignantly egregious, one gathers.

"There they stood wrangling over whom should wait on her," is a story in "Business"; and anybody who wants to comment on it has our jolly old permission.

## PAT. MED. EPITAPHES.

Here sleepeth Little Dorothy;  
 And yet we cannot cheer up,  
 Although she's soothed eternally  
 With Mrs. Killfast's Syrup.

W. W. E.

The invitations that every columnist gets are numerous; most of them he is forced to decline. Among yesterday's letters was one from Rochester, which said, in part:

"The Clarion," the weekly of East High School, Rochester, New York with the largest circulation of any high school weekly in the country is planning to run a professional issue, all the material of which is to be done by prominent writers and artists. We consider you one of the best athletic writers in the country and should like your aid in this novel scheme."

It flatters us to be called one of the best athletic writers in the country. We always knew we were one of the most athletic, but that's as far as we dared hope.

"We are endeavoring to secure," continues the Clarion's editor, "endeavoring to secure" being slang for "trying to get"—"contributions from Elbert Hubbard." The Fra's athletic specialty, we imagine, is putting the 180-pound ego.

Speaking of names, which is a poor way to end a poor year, three negroes have just been lynched at Fairplay, N. C.

And we hope to be able to tin and solder the theme next year—W. Rich has just got a judgment against W. C. and C. W. Rich for \$162.40.

This, as we view it coldly in proof, isn't much of a lastline to round out the year with.

Still, it's as good as this

P. P. A.



## THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

## THOSE JINGLING BELLS

About as Good as Most Excuses for Not Being Charitable, Is the Retort.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Mrs. W. A. Randall's defence of my article Fifth Ave. has at least merit and novelty, and for that reason deserves some attention. But if the jingle of a Salvation Army bell would accelerate her speed in an opposite direction from the offending noise, what would she do when her ears are assaulted by the frightful toot of an automobile horn or the drum fracturing screech of a motorcycle's warning cry?

A lady with such delicate sensibilities must find life in a great city like New York exceedingly irksome, and I hope she will pardon me when I suggest that she acted somewhat indiscreetly when she left Philadelphia. There she could enjoy the comparative quietude which she seeks. In New York, however, one has simply got to put up with jarring and jangling noises, and the people who are responsible for these disturbances will not suspend activities even during Yuletide.

I am informed that various methods have been suggested to the Salvation Army by well meaning persons for raising the Christmas money, but so far no practicable substitute for the present plan has been offered. Discussing this matter with Colonel William H. Cox, the editor in chief of the Salvation Army's American publication, the other day, he said to me:

"The Salvation Army would gladly abandon the street collecting method if those who object to it would make up the deficit which would naturally result from such a policy. The young women who do this work are self-denying, self-sacrificing Christians, whose only aim in life is to make some substantial contribution toward the relief of human suffering. We would not put off their young women on the streets collecting money if we didn't believe that by so doing we are serving God and humanity."

This is just where the trouble arises. Mrs. Randall evidently belongs to an excellent class which insists that the bread which is put into the mouths of the hungry be obtained without offence to sensitive taste and temperament, but after rigidly adhering to this method there proves to be a large deficit, could Mrs. Randall and her friends be depended upon to make the deficit good?

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Every national guard organization is deficient in members. Our youth, spoiled by an excess of luxurious freedom of mind and body and highly individualistic in its tendencies, does not, in the majority of cases, take a very enthusiastic interest in the guard. They find discipline irksome and think that to submit gratuitously to the authority of officers of the guard would be most foolish, as absolutely unnecessary. This attitude is entirely natural in a country where absolute freedom is so universal a phenomenon.

Now, it seems to me that dancing, pool playing and billiards are a very good means of attracting men to the guard. After a man has joined, there should be instilled in him so deep a regard for the organization of which he is a member that he will gladly perform the functions of his military duty, despite the amount of work it entails.

General Wood said recently that there had been as great an advance since 1861 in the arts of war as of peace. This means that at a summer encampment there must needs be an enormous amount of work to be performed. Why, then, should we not make that work, it seems to me a grievous mistake to remove wholly that element of innocuous enjoyment which the military authorities seem to consider too frivolous for the dignity of a soldier?

## SUFFRAGE IN NEVADA

An "Anti" Explanation of Its Victory in That State.

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Miss Anne Martin, of Nevada, attempts in your columns to answer the general deductions made after the result to the overwhelming defeat of woman suffrage in five states and its victory by small majorities in two. In summing up Miss Bronson said: "Suffrage was most overwhelmingly defeated where the most women were consulted." Since there are only 100 women to every 170 men in Nevada, the smallest percentage of any state in the Union, Miss Martin cannot consider this statement, however loyal she may be to her state. We women are numerically stronger and can more easily sway public opinion in states like Missouri and Ohio than in states like Montana and Nevada.

Writes Miss Martin: "Miss Bronson's statement that in many mining camps where there were no women the vote was practically unanimous in favor of woman suffrage, is, I am very glad to say, absolutely true." This is a strange concession for Miss Martin to make. We lost Nevada by a pitiful 3,672. If the mining camps, lacking the feminine point of view, were unanimous against us, where are only 100 women to every 170 men in Nevada, the smallest percentage of any state in the Union, Miss Martin cannot consider this statement, however loyal she may be to her state. We women are numerically stronger and can more easily sway public opinion in states like Missouri and Ohio than in states like Montana and Nevada.

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